

Stormwater Management

In November 2009 the City promulgated the Stormwater Management ordinance – this ordinance requires that ALL stormwater from new projects and any renovations or expansion of existing facilities, meet the new stormwater discharge requirements. The regulations can be found at the following link in the Marlborough City Code under Stormwater Management and at this web link:

<http://www.ecode360.com/documents/MA1056/source/346020.pdf>

Regulations are to be promulgated in 2010 and will be posted with a link at this site when finalized.

Stormwater Information

Stormwater discharges are generated by runoff from land and impervious areas during rainfall and snow events. Stormwater picks up litter, sand, bacteria, oil and other chemicals as it flows over the land and it carries these pollutants to our streams, rivers, ponds and wetlands. Runoff from paved surfaces, such as roads, parking lots and rooftops, drain through pipes and contribute large amounts of polluted storm water to **our streams and ponds**. Cleaning up storm water benefits our neighborhoods and town, it also benefits the entire network of water bodies and land that make up our watershed [Sudbury-Assabet-Concord (SuAsCo) Watershed].

In Marlborough, stormwater is regulated at the federal level by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the state level by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and at the city **level through the local Stormwater Ordinance**. Currently the Conservation Commission and Engineering Departments ensure construction sites are **not discharging dirty water** into the storm drains and ultimately our stream and wetland system.

Tips for Keeping Stormwater Clean

Car Care Tips:

- * Maintain your car to prevent fluid leaks;
- * Recycle motor oil, antifreeze, tires, and batteries;
- * Use a commercial carwash that treats and/or recycles the wash water;
- * If you wash your car at home, wash it on the lawn so that the water can seep into the soil, and use low-phosphate detergents in small amounts.

Lawn Care and Garden Tips:

- * Use fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides sparingly;
- * Try using organic lawn care methods;

- * Mow grass 2 to 3 inches high to encourage dense growth and deter weeds;
- * Mulch lawn clippings and leaves (Not in the wetlands or streams);
- * Do not over water your lawn;
- * Reduce lawn size in favor of natural vegetation or rock gardens ;
- * Cover soil piles with tarps and replant bare areas to stop erosion.

General Tips:

- * NEVER pour or sweep anything down a storm drain (**the metal grate you see in the street**), including: motor oil, litter, leaves, sand, pet waste or paint (only rainwater should enter the drain);
- * DO NOT block stormwater drains with refuse or debris;
- * If you own a parking lot, have it swept annually and clean catchbasins and drainage structures annually to remove sand and to keep the system clean;
- * If you are doing construction on more than 1 acre of land, you will need an EPA Construction General **as well as a local permit which controls stormwater and erosion**;
- * **Erosion control devices on the down slope side of all construction sites is required to prevent silty water from entering a wetland or waterway.**

For questions regarding Marlborough's Stormwater policy the Conservation Office can be reached at 508-460-3768 or e-mail pryder@marlborough-ma.gov or the City Engineer at 508-624-6910 tcullen@marlborough-ma.gov.

For more information on Stormwater, use the following links:

[EPA Stormwater Info](#)

[EPA NPDES Program](#)

[MA DEP Stormwater](#)

Marlborough Stormwater Management Ordinance (create a link to <http://www.ecode360.com/documents/MA1056/source/346020.pdf>)